

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

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FOLLOWING REPEAT USINFO 121825Z (ADX 130066) ACTION SECSTATE

INFO WHITE HOUSE DATED 12 FEB 75

QUOTE

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STATE OPS CENTER FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY TO DAVID GOMPER,
FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

SECRETARY'S MIDDLE EAST TRIP-III 8TAKE ONE OF THREE)

FOLLOWING IS A REPORT OF FOREIGN MEDIA REACTION AS OF NOON
EST FEBRUARY 12, PREPARED BY USIA.

SUMMARY: CAIRO PAPERS ON WEDNESDAY SPELLED OUT EGYPT'S POSITION,
SAYING THAT CAIRO DOES NOT HAVE TO OFFER CONCESSIONS IN RETURN FOR
ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM SINAI. SYRIA'S AL-BAATH SAID U.S.-
ISRAELI ACTIVITY LEADING TO PHASED AGREEMENTS WAS AIMED AT GAINING
TIME. ISRAEL'S HAARETZ REPORTED THAT IN A TUESDAY DINNER SPEECH
"KISSINGER'S PERFORMANCE WAS GOOD...IF HE FAILED TO CONVINCE
HIS OPPONENTS...HIS REMARKS SOOTHED THOSE WHO HAD NOT MADE UP
THEIR MINDS ABOUT HIM AND U.S. POLICY." AMONG WEST EUROPEAN
PAPERS REPORTING EXPECTATIONS OF SOME COMPROMISE TO BE ACHIEVED
ON HIS TRIP WERE THE TIMES OF LONDON AND LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS.
END SUMMARY.

CAIRO:

WESNESDAY HEADLINES AND STORIES CITED THE ISRAELI VIEW THAT
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THE DIFFICULT PART OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S TALKS WOULD FOLLOW

HIS RETURN TO TEL AVIV THURSDAY. PAPERS EMPHASIZED THE EXPLORATORY NATURE OF THE CURRENT TRIP, TO BE FOLLOWED BY A MORE DECISIVE ONE IN MARCH.

PAPERS CRYSTALLIZED THE CAIRO POSITION IN THESE POINTS:

1) AN ISRAELI PLEDGE TO WITHDRAW FROM GOLAN, WEST BANK AND SINAI; 2) WITHDRAWAL FROM THE OIL FIELDS AND PASSES IN SINAI; 3) PLO PARTICIPATION IN WEST BANK TALKS; 4) EGYPT'S READINESS TO END THE STATE OF BELLIGERENCY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF A FINAL SETTLEMENT. GOVERNMENT-OWNED AL-BUMHURIYA ELABORATED THAT EGYPT DOES NOT HAVE TO OFFER CONCESSIONS IN RETURN FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM SINAI, THAT WITHDRAWAL MUST BE FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY BY THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND THAT FINAL SETTLEMENT MUST COME THROUGH THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND MUST INCLUDE ALL PARTIES CONCERNED. SEMI-OFFICIAL AL-AHRAM QUOTED EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMI'S STATEMENT THAT EGYPT WAS NOT APPREHENSIVE ABOUT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, BUT OTHER CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS WERE APPREHENSIVE "BECAUSE EGYPT WILL TABLE THERE THE ARAB TERMS FOR A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE REGION." THE PAPER SAID, "WE ARE READY TO GO TO GENEVA TODAY... THE QUESTION IS NOT WHETHER TO GO TO GENEVA, BUT TO RETURN FROM THERE WITH FULL AND GUARANTEED ISRAELI SELF-COMMITMENT TO BEHAVIOR THAT WOULD SAFEGUARD ARABS FROM AN ONSLAUGHT OF WORLD ZIONISM."

CAIRO MENA ON WEDNESDAY CITED SENSATIONAL AL-AKHBAR AS SAYING THAT ISRAEL'S ATTEMPTS TO LAY CONDITIONS FOR FURTHER WITHDRAWAL MEANT THAT IT DOES NOT INTEND TO WITHDRAW AND IS USING THE EFFORTS BEING MADE FOR PEACE JUST TO GAIN TIME. THE PAPER WARNED ISRAEL THAT IT MUST ABANDON THIS ATTITUDE BECAUSE TIME WAS RUNNING OUT AND WOULD ONLY LEAD TO AN EXPLOSION.

THE NEWS AGENCY ALSO REPORTED THAT AL-GUMHURIYA, CITED ABOVE, SAID THAT OFFICIAL CIRCLES IN CAIRO EXPECTED SECRETARY KISSINGER TO BRING WITH HIM DEFINITE IDEAS FROM TEL AVIV ABOUT THE NEXT STEP IN SOLVING THE CRISIS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH AND THE NECESSITY OF SECURING AN ISRAELI MOVE ON THE THREE FRONTS--SINAI, THE GOLAN AND THE WEST BANK OF THE RIVER JORDAN. THE PAPER SAID THAT CAIRO COMMUNICATED ITS CLEAR-CUT POINT OF VIEW ON THE NEXT STEP TO MR. KISSINGER BEFORE HE LEFT WASHINGTON ON HIS PRESENT TOUR OF THE MIDDLE EAST.

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BOTH WEDNESDAY DAILIES, CITING WIRE SERVICE DISPATCHES, REPORTED THE END OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S INITIAL ROUND OF TALKS WITH ISRAELI LEADERS AND THE SCHEDULED COMMENCEMENT OF DISCUSSIONS IN CAIRO.

AL-BAATH RAN A BYLINER'S ASSERTION THAT AMERICAN-ISRAELI ACTIVITY LEADING TO PHASED AGREEMENTS WAS ONE MORE FORMULA AIMED AT GAINING TIME. HE ALSO ASSERTED THAT ISRAELI EFFORTS AT SPLITTING THE ARAB RANKS WERE AIMED AT AGINING TIME. HE SAID,

"ISRAELIS IMAGINE THEY CAN COMPLETE THEIR MILITARY PREPARATIONS BY NEXT YEAR SO THEY CAN IMPOSE A FAIT ACCOMPLI ON THE ARABS. THEY IMAGINE THT BY NEXT YEAR THE ARABS WOULD LOSE THE CAPABILITY OF PRESSURING THE U.S. AND EUROPE WITH OIL. THEY IMAGINE THAT PROCRASTINATION IN WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED ARAB LANDS AND SPLITTING THE (ARAB) CAUSE THROUGH PARTIAL SETTLEMENT WOULD CREATE CONFLICTS WITHIN THE ARAB SIDE AND WOULD DRIVE THE ARABS TO A STATE OF ANXIETY IN WHICH THEY WOULD WEAKEN IN THEIR DETERMINATION..."

TEL AVIV:

A BYLINER IN INDEPENDENT HAARETZ OF TEL AVIV COMMENTED WEDNESDAY THAT "SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PRESENT MEDIATION IS HARDER THAN" HIS PRECEDING ONE BECAUSE THE ISRAELI LEADERS AT THE TIME OF THE OCTOBER WAR "PROSESSED OF FAR DEEPER EXPERIENCE THAN RABIN, PERES AND ALLON..."

ANOTHER BYLINER FOR THE PAPER COMMENTED ON THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH AT A STATE DINNER ON FEBRUARY 11: "KISSINGER'S REMARKS WERE FAR MORE SIGNIFICANT THIS TIME THAN PREVIOUS SPEECHES AT SIMILAR EVENTS...(HE) SOUGHT TO ASSURE THE ISRAELI PUBLIC THAT THEIR NEGOTIATING TEAM IS NOT SOFT NOR PRONE TO MAKE CONCESSIONS WITHOUT APPROPRIATE CONSIDERATION... IT IS STRANGE TO SEE A FOREIGN POLITICIAN TRYING TO PERSUADE THE PUBLIC OF ANOTHER NATION THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO NEGOTIATE WITH ITS MINISTERS AND CHIEF OF STATE...KISSINGER SOUGHT TO CONVINCE THE PUBLIC THAT HE DOES NOT INTEND TO APPLY THE SALAMI METHOD... KISSINGER'S PREFEORMANCE WAS GOOD... IF HE FAILED TO CONVINCE HIS OPPONENTS... HIS REMARKS SOOTHED THOSE WHO HAD NOT MADE UP THEIR MINDS ABOUT HIM AND U.S. POLICY..."

A RITER FOR INDEPENDENT MAARIV COMMENTED ON THE SECRETARY'S INTENTION OF REVISITING THE MIDDLE EAST NEXT MONTH: "APPARENTLY DR. KISSINGER BELIEVES HE MUST COME BACK DESPITE THE WIDE GAP SEPARATING ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN POSITIONS...OTHERWISE IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE TALKS HAD FAILED..."

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THE NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY'S HATZOFEH CONTENTED THAT THE SECRETARY' SPROPOSALS DO "NOT STAND THE TEST OF REALITY." IT URGED ISRAELI NEGOTIATORS TO "REJECT ALL SUGGESTIONS ABOUT A SECRET AGREEMENT WITH SADAT IN RETURN FOR A SUBSTANTIAL WITHDRAWL BY ISRAEL...THE ERA OF ESOTERIC AGREEMENTS IS OVER AND THE EGYPTIANS HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN OPEN, CLEAN AND UNAMBIGUOUS AGREEMENTS AND OUR...NOT MOVING FROM THE EXISTING LINES..."

THE PRO-GOVERNMENT JERUSALEM POST HELD THAT "IF PRESIDENT SADAT INDEED DESIRES TO ACHIEVE A SETTLEMENT, HE MUST FUNDAMENTALLY CHANGE HIS APPROACH. HE MUST STOP REFUSING TO REACH A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL, FOR WE CANNOT SETTLE FOR A MERE MILITARY AGREEMENT--AS STIPULATED BY CAIRO."

TUNIS:

WEDNESDAY PAPERS CONTINUED TO GIVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE.

OFFICIAL AL-AMAL DECLARED, "IT IS DIFFICULT TO REACH A LASTING
SETTLEMENT THROUGH THE POLICY OF 'SMALL STEPS' BECAUSE THE
ISRAELIS, DESPITE CERTAIN STATEMENSS, ARE NOT READY TO
CONSIDER THE PALESTINIANS AS A FULL-FLEDGED PARTY (TO THE
PEACE NEGOTIATIONS)". (END TAKE ONE)
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